



This is an official  
**CDC Health Advisory**

Distributed via Health Alert Network  
July 29, 2014, 1:00 PM  
10323-CHA-07-29-2014-EBOLA

## **Ebola Virus Disease Confirmed in a Traveler to Nigeria, Two U.S. Healthcare Workers in Liberia**

### **Summary**

*Nigerian health authorities have confirmed a diagnosis of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in a patient who died on Friday in a hospital in Lagos, Nigeria, after traveling from Liberia on July 20, 2014. The report marks the first Ebola case in Nigeria linked to the current outbreak in the West African countries of Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia. Health authorities also reported this weekend that two U.S. citizens working in a hospital in Monrovia, Liberia, have confirmed Ebola virus infection. These recent cases, together with the continued increase in the number of Ebola cases in West Africa, underscore the potential for travel-associated spread of the disease and the risks of EVD to healthcare workers. While the possibility of infected persons entering the U.S. remains low, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) advises that healthcare providers in the U.S. should consider EVD in the differential diagnosis of febrile illness, with compatible symptoms, in any person with recent (within 21 days) travel history in the affected countries and consider isolation of those patients meeting these criteria, pending diagnostic testing.*

### **Background**

CDC is working with the World Health Organization (WHO), the ministries of health of Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, and other international organizations in response to an outbreak of EVD in West Africa, which was first reported in late March 2014. As of July 23, 2014, according to WHO, a total of 1,201 cases and 672 deaths (case fatality 55-60%) had been reported in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. This is the largest outbreak of EVD ever documented and the first recorded in West Africa.

EVD is characterized by sudden onset of fever and malaise, accompanied by other nonspecific signs and symptoms, such as myalgia, headache, vomiting, and diarrhea. Patients with severe forms of the disease may develop multi-organ dysfunction, including hepatic damage, renal failure, and central nervous system involvement, leading to shock and death.

In outbreak settings, Ebola virus is typically first spread to humans after contact with infected wildlife and is then spread person-to-person through direct contact with bodily fluids such as, but not limited to, blood, urine, sweat, semen, and breast milk. The incubation period is usually 8–10 days (rarely ranging from 2–21 days). Patients can transmit the virus while febrile and through later stages of disease, as well as postmortem, when persons contact the body during funeral preparations.

On July 25, the Nigerian Ministry of Health confirmed a diagnosis of EVD in a man who died in a hospital in the country's capital of Lagos (population ~21 million). The man had been in isolation in the hospital since arriving at the Lagos airport from Liberia, where he apparently contracted the infection. Health

authorities are investigating whether passengers or crew on the plane or other persons who had contact with the ill traveler are at risk for infection.

In addition, health authorities have reported that two U.S. healthcare workers at ELWA hospital in Monrovia, Liberia, have confirmed Ebola virus infection. One of the healthcare workers, a physician who worked with Ebola patients in the hospital, is symptomatic and in isolation. The other healthcare worker, a hygienist, developed fever but is showing no other signs of illness. The physician is an employee of Samaritan's Purse, a North Carolina-based aid organization that has provided extensive assistance in Liberia since the beginning of the current outbreak. The other healthcare worker works with Soudan Interior Mission (SIM) in Liberia and was helping the joint SIM/Samaritan's Purse team.

The recent cases in a traveler and in healthcare workers demonstrate the risk for spread of EVD in these populations. While no EVD cases have been reported in the United States, a human case, caused by a related virus, Marburg virus, occurred in Denver, Colorado in 2008. Successful implementation of standard precautions was sufficient to limit onward transmission. Other imported cases of viral hemorrhagic fever disease were also successfully managed through effective barrier methods, including a recent Lassa fever case in Minnesota.

### **Recommendations**

EVD poses little risk to the U.S. general population at this time. However, U.S. healthcare workers are advised to be alert for signs and symptoms of EVD in patients with compatible illness who have a recent (within 21 days) travel history to countries where the outbreak is occurring, and should consider isolation of those patients meeting these criteria, pending diagnostic testing.

### **For more information:**

Additional information on EVD can be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/ebola>

Interim Guidance on EVD for healthcare workers can be found at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/abroad/healthcare-workers.html>

Travel notices for each country can be found at:

Guinea: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/alert/ebola-guinea>

Liberia: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/alert/ebola-liberia>

Sierra Leone: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/alert/ebola-sierra-leone>

*The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) protects people's health and safety by preventing and controlling diseases and injuries; enhances health decisions by providing credible information on critical health issues; and promotes healthy living through strong partnerships with local, national, and international organizations.*

## **DHEC contact information for reportable diseases and reporting requirements**

Reporting of Ebola Virus Disease is consistent with South Carolina Law requiring the reporting of diseases and conditions to your state or local public health department. (State Law # 44-29-10 and Regulation # 61-20) as per the DHEC 2014 List of Reportable Conditions available at:

<http://www.scdhec.gov/Library/CR-009025.pdf>

Federal HIPAA legislation allows disclosure of protected health information, without consent of the individual, to public health authorities to collect and receive such information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease. (HIPAA 45 CFR §164.512).

## Regional Public Health Offices – 2014

**Mail or call reports to the Epidemiology Office in each Public Health Region.**

### **LOW COUNTRY PUBLIC HEALTH REGION**

**Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester**  
4050 Bridge View Drive, Suite 600  
N. Charleston, SC 29405  
Phone: (843) 953-0043  
Fax: (843) 953-0051  
Nights / Weekends: (843) 441-1091

**Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper**  
219 S. Lemacks Street  
Walterboro, SC 29488  
Phone: (843) 549-1516  
Fax: (843) 549-6845  
Nights / Weekends: (843) 441-1091

**Allendale, Bamberg, Calhoun, Orangeburg**  
932 Holly Street  
Holly Hill, SC 29059  
Phone: (803) 300-2270  
Fax: (843) 549-6845  
Nights / Weekends: (843) 441-1091

### **MIDLANDS PUBLIC HEALTH REGION**

**Kershaw, Lexington, Newberry, Richland**  
2000 Hampton Street  
Columbia, SC 29204  
Phone: (803) 576-2749  
Fax: (803) 576-2993  
Nights / Weekends: (888) 801-1046

**Chester, Fairfield, Lancaster, York**  
PO Box 817  
1833 Pageland Highway  
Lancaster, SC 29720  
Phone: (803) 286-9948  
Fax: (803) 286-5418  
Nights / Weekends: (888) 801-1046

**Aiken, Barnwell, Edgefield, Saluda**  
222 Beaufort Street, NE  
Aiken, SC 29801  
Phone: (803) 642-1618  
Fax: (803) 643-8386  
Nights / Weekends: (888) 801-1046

### **PEE DEE PUBLIC HEALTH REGION**

**Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marlboro, Marion**  
145 E. Cheves Street  
Florence, SC 29506  
Phone: (843) 661-4830  
Fax: (843) 661-4859  
Nights / Weekends: (843) 915-8845

**Clarendon, Lee, Sumter**  
PO Box 1628  
105 North Magnolia Street  
Sumter, SC 29150  
Phone: (803) 773-5511  
Fax: (803) 775-9941  
Nights/Weekends: (843) 915-8845

**Georgetown, Horry, Williamsburg**  
1931 Industrial Park Road  
Conway, SC 29526-5482  
Phone: (843) 915-8804  
Fax: (843) 915-6502  
Nights/Weekends: (843) 915-8845

### **UPSTATE PUBLIC HEALTH REGION**

**Anderson, Oconee**  
220 McGee Road  
Anderson, SC 29625  
Phone: (864) 260-5801  
Fax: (864) 260-5623  
Nights / Weekends: (866) 298-4442

**Abbeville, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick**  
1736 S. Main Street  
Greenwood, SC 29646  
Phone: (864) 227-5947  
Fax: (864) 953-6313  
Nights / Weekends: (866) 298-4442

**Cherokee, Greenville, Pickens**  
PO Box 2507  
200 University Ridge  
Greenville, SC 29602-2507  
Phone: (864) 372-3133  
Fax: (864) 282-4373  
Nights / Weekends: (866) 298-4442

### **UPSTATE PUBLIC HEALTH REGION (continued)**

**Spartanburg, Union**  
PO Box 2507  
200 University Ridge  
Greenville, SC 29602-2507  
Phone: (864) 372-3133  
Fax: (864) 282-4373  
Nights / Weekends: (866) 298-4442

### **DHEC Bureau of Disease Control Division of Acute Disease Epidemiology**

1751 Calhoun Street  
Box 101106  
Columbia, SC 29211  
Phone: (803) 898-0861  
Fax: (803) 898-0897  
Nights / Weekends: 1-888-847-0902



[www.scdhec.gov](http://www.scdhec.gov)

Categories of Health Alert messages:

<b>Health Alert</b>	Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
<b>Health Advisory</b>	Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.
<b>Health Update</b>	Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.
<b>Info Service</b>	Provides general information that is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.